

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 6-15, 30-32, 36-43 and 45-47 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 3-5, 16-29, 33-35 and 44 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 6, 30-32 and 45 have been amended. Claims 46 and 47 have been added. The Applicants confirm that the inventorship for the remaining claims has not changed.

The Applicants reserve the right to file the cancelled claims in a divisional application.

Restriction/Election Requirement

In response to the restriction/election requirement dated April 22, 2003, the Applicants elect to prosecute Group I (*i.e.*, claims 1-15 and 29-45) in the present application. Claims 16-28 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The Examiner also stated that the application was directed to three distinct species of the invention: Group III consisting of FIGS. 1 and 4a-4d; Group IV consisting of FIG. 2; and Group V consisting of FIG. 3. In response, the Applicants elect to prosecute claims associated with Group III (*i.e.*, claims 1, 2, 6-15, 30-32, 36-43 and 45) without traverse.

Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 30, 31, 32 and 45 have been amended to remove the term "film" from the preamble. Furthermore, claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error and claim 30 has been amended to recite that the bottom bridges the opposing bag sides.

Information Disclosure Statement

Submitted herewith is a Third Information Disclosure Statement. The Applicants request that the Examiner review the cited references and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 to the Applicants.

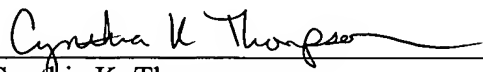
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

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